THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Wheat production

561. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of wheat production in the country during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 and the estimates for 2006-07;

(b) the quantity procured by FCI during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 indicating minimum support prices perquintal prevailed in respective years;

(c) the volume of buffer stock norms, if any, vis-a-vis stock held with Government agencies at the commencement and conclusion of the harvesting seasons of 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005;

(d) wheat imported, if any, from overseas recently indicating volume, country and its cost per quintal; and

(e) the reasons for wheat import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The production estiamtes of wheat during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the table:

Production of wheat (in million tonnes)

Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Production	72.11	72.00$	73.06*

* - As per 2nd Advance Estimates

$ - 4th Advance Estimates

For the year 2006-07, no information on production of wheat in available as yet.

(b) Wheat is procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) as well as State Agencies. The quantity of wheat procured 2003-04 to 2005-06 by

FCI and the minimum support price of wheat (Rs./Quintal) prevailing in the above years, are shown in the table below:

Procurement of wheat by FCI

Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Procurement by FCI (in lakh tonnes)	35.48	32.67	22.28*
Total Procurement by FCI and other agencies (in lakh tonnes)	158.00	167.96	147.85*
MSP (Rs./Qtl.)	630	640	650

* as on 31.12.2005

(c) The buffer stock norms vis-a-vis stock of wheat held by FCI during 1st April and 1st October of the year 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 are given below:

Date	Quantity (Lakh Tonnes) Buffer Stock Norm	Stock held in Central Pool
01.10.05	110.00	102.90
01.04.05	40.00	40.66
01.10.04	116.00	142.23
01.04.04	40.00	69.31
01.10.03	116.00	184.27
01.04.03	40.00	156.45
01.10.02	116.00	356.37
01.04.02	40.00	260.39

(d) and (e) India is a net exporter of wheat i.e., the export amount is much higher than import. During 2004-05, India imported a nominal quantity of 220 tonnes of wheat costing Rs. 11 Lakh implying cost of Rs. 500 per quintal. In February 2006, the Government has allowed import of

5 lakh tonnes of wheat. The import of wheat has been resorted to for stabilizing the open market prices of wheat and to enhance food security.

Decline in foodgrain production

562. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that growth in foodgrain production in the country has shown consistently a downward trend over the last decade;

(b) whether Government are aware of a report by International Food Policy Research Institute, which predicted that by 2020, India's foodgrain production will not be enough to feed its own population, forcing the country to import foodgrains;

(c) if so, whether Government have formulated any long-term policy to reverse the current trend and increase food grain productivity in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The foodgrain production in the country shows an upward trend albeit with year to year fluctuation. The total production of foodgrains in 1995-96 was 180.42 million tonnes which increased over the years to reach 213.46 million 'tonnes' in 2003-04. In 2004-05 as per the 4th advance estimates the production of foodgrains was 204.61 million tonnes.

(b) The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in its report titled "2020 Global Food Outlook" mentioned that India would shift from near self-sufficiency under the baseline senario (Scenario prevailing in the around 1997) to imports of 30 million (tonnes of cereals).

(c) to (e) As per National Agriculture Policy, special efforts are made to raise the productivity and production of crops to meet the increasing demand for food generated by demographic pressures and raw materils